

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn): A method for measuring a thiol group-containing compound, which comprises the steps of:

(1) contacting a sample containing a thiol group-containing compound with a thin membrane comprising a microparticle of a metal and comprising a hydrophilic binder, and (2) detecting a color change on the thin membrane resulting from interaction of the thiol group-containing compound and the microparticle.

2. (withdrawn): A method for measuring a thiol group-containing compound, which comprises the steps of:

(1) contacting a sample containing a thiol group-containing compound with a thin membrane comprising a microparticle of a metal and comprising a hydrophilic binder and a crosslinking agent, and

(2) detecting a color change on the thin membrane resulting from interaction of the thiol group-containing compound and the microparticle.

3. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of a metal of the 2nd period, 3rd period, 4th period, 5th period, and 6th period of the periodic table of elements.

4. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of a metal of Group VIb, Group VIIb, Group VIII, Group Ib, Group IIb, Group VIa and Group VIIa in the periodic table of elements.

5. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 3, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, copper, and platinum.

6. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the thiol group-containing compound is a compound selected from the group consisting of an alkylmercaptan, an arylmercaptan, an amino acid and a derivative thereof, a peptide compound, and a protein.

7. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the sample containing the thiol group-containing compound is a biosample isolated or collected from a mammal including a human.

8. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 7, wherein the biosample is a cancer tissue slice.

9. (currently amended): A thin membrane used for measurement of a thiol group-containing compound, which comprises a microparticle of a metal metal and comprises a hydrophilic binder wherein the thin membrane is dry.

10. (previously presented): The thin membrane according to claim 9 which further comprises a crosslinking agent.

11. (previously presented): The thin membrane according to claim 9 or claim 10, which generates a color change by interaction of the thiol group-containing compound and the microparticle.

12. (currently amended): ~~A~~The thin membrane for use in the method according to claim 1 or 29, wherein said microparticles have a particle size of 0.001 μm to 1 μm .